

***In the Specification***

Please amend paragraph 155 as follows:

[0155] Northern Hybridization Analysis: Total RNA samples (10 .mu.g), isolated as described above, were electrophoresed through agarose gels and northern transfers were prepared and hybridized as described in Hajela et al. (Plant Physiol. 93, 1246-1252 (1990)) using high stringency wash conditions (Stockinger et al., 1997). Gene specific probes to RAV1, RAP2.1, and ZAT12 were obtained by amplifying approximately 1 kb of the coding region of these genes from Arabidopsis genomic DNA. The primers used were:

5 RAV1, 5'-TCTAGACGAAAAAGTCGTCGGTAGGT-3' (SEQ ID NO: 3) and 5'-GGATCCGAGTTGTTACGAGGCGTGAA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 4); ZAT12, 5'-ACTAGTCAGAAGAAAAATGGTTGCGATA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 5) and 5'-GGATCCGAAAAATTCAAAGAATGAGAGAAACA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 6); RAP2.1, 5'-TCTAGATCAATGGAAAGAGAACAAGAA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 7) and 5'-AGATCTAAATTGACTATATATCTCCGGATTC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 8).